United Nations A/62/6 (Sect. 21)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009*

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 21
Economic and social development in Western Asia

(Programme 18 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009)**

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will subsequently be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/62/6/Add.1).

** *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

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Overview

21.1 The overall orientation of programme 18 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

21.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, establishing ESCWA and amending the terms of reference to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in ESCWA resolution 220 (XX) of 27 May 1999, by which the ESCWA member countries adopted the Beirut Declaration, which envisioned an enhanced role for the Commission at the regional level; and, by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session (May 2001) that activities focus on a limited number of priorities, on Arab regional integration and on the study of mechanisms that would activate such integration. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, dealing with such matters as trade, sustainable development, social development, finance, and information and communication technologies, provide further policy direction to the programme.

21.3 Political instability, foreign occupation and the lack of adequate structural reforms influence economic performance in the countries of the region. While recent hikes in international energy prices have brought a surge of economic boom in most energy exporting countries of the region, other countries continue to face difficulties in mobilizing domestic and foreign direct investment. The region is in need of economic and social policies that ensure social justice and equitable distribution of wealth. The prevalence of technology in the region, especially information and communication technologies — a powerful enabler of development — remains below the international average.

21.4 Furthermore, the region has the second highest population growth in the world, following Africa, creating increasing demand for food, water and energy, and adequate infrastructure to provide basic shelter, education, health care and other social services and productive employment opportunities. This requires the countries of the region to coordinate efforts and mobilize more resources for the provision of regional public goods, including water management, environmental sustainability, the social safety net and coordination and harmonization in trade policies and procedures, transport infrastructure and conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

21.5 The countries of the region also continue to experience some of the highest unemployment rates in the world, especially among the youth. Migration, both towards and away from ESCWA countries, is a regional issue that needs to be addressed within the framework of international human rights treaties, taking into account regional economic considerations. Women's equal rights to and opportunity for economic and political participation should be further encouraged, although the region achieved general success in making the secondary and tertiary education systems far more accessible to both sexes equally. Among the vulnerable groups, those who suffer most live in the least developed and conflict-stricken countries of the region.

21.6 There persists a strong need to improve the institutional capacity to produce timely, reliable and comparable statistics for policy and programme formulation and for monitoring the progress made towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Regular monitoring of the effects of foreign occupation on economic and social development in the region is increasingly becoming important.

21.7 For the biennium 2008-2009, ESCWA will pursue the programme objective by promoting economic and social integration among its member countries at the subregional and regional levels and fostering solidarity in the international political arena and global economy. Such regional integration between member countries could be scaled up to cover the Arab region through strategic partnerships with subregional and regional organizations, especially the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The programme will focus on the four regional priority areas: (a) managing water and energy; (b) promoting integrated social policies; (c) stimulating economic development and integration in the increasingly globalizing world; and (d) accelerating the introduction and development of technology, especially information and communications technology. Throughout the programme, the emphasis will be placed on the effective participation and involvement of women and their advancement, special consideration for the people living in conflict-stricken countries and statistical capacity development. Attention should be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration.

21.8 ESCWA will carry out analytical and normative work, building on its accumulated knowledge and multidisciplinary expertise, which will be supported by the provision of technical cooperation. It will also facilitate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking on the outcome of the Commission's work and the national, regional and global development issues. In addition, ESCWA will provide a regional platform for the member countries to formulate and implement regional initiatives, agreements and programmes.

21.9 It is expected that regional support provided by ESCWA will contribute towards: (a) increased national capacity to formulate and implement economic and social policies and programmes that are pro-poor and inclusive, and to tackle transboundary issues; (b) provision of joint responses to address multifaceted problems encountered by the countries in the region through the coordinated efforts and consolidated resources of the United Nations entities; (c) enhanced work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields; and (d) increased knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation among the countries in the region and with countries in other regions, thereby promoting regional and interregional cooperation.

21.10 The programme will be harmonized through regular interaction with the other entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the entities of the United Nations Development Group. The latter will be achieved through the Regional Coordination Group, which is led by ESCWA. ESCWA will enhance its collaboration with the subregional office for North Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure synergies in thematic and operational work and to bring its expertise to the countries in the North African subregion, which share common language and cultural values.

21.11 For the period 2008-2009, subprogrammes 3 and 4 are proposed to be merged into one subprogramme. An internal review carried out in December 2005 demonstrated that many mandates were common to both subprogrammes. Hence, issues of economic growth and development and financing for development issues, including the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which have been dealt with by two subprogrammes in the past few years, are proposed to become the responsibility of subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration, to complement and increase synergy. Consolidating the two subprogrammes will also facilitate the strategic repositioning of economic analysis work with a view to making it more objective-oriented, that is, geared to achieving sustained high growth, employment creation and/or poverty alleviation, on the one hand, and creating space for operationalizing findings, conclusions and recommendations of studies and meetings into policy advice and capacity development, on the other.

21.12 Furthermore, a new subprogramme 7 is proposed on conflict mitigation and development that will address the impact of the persistent instability and conflict on economic and social development in Western Asia, which affects not only the countries concerned but also neighbouring countries and the region as a whole. The subprogramme aims to give concrete expression to the interlinkages between peace and security, development and human rights, in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome and relevant ESCWA resolutions. The subprogramme focuses on pursuing sustainable development goals in a context of tension and insecurity to address the increasing poverty levels and the deteriorating quality of life in the afflicted areas. It will also increase understanding of the causes of conflict and instability to enable the countries to take appropriate measures to reduce their vulnerability, strengthen advocacy and capacity-building on issues of good governance and promote the replication of good practices.

21.13 The overall resources proposed under this section amount to $56,809,900, reflecting a resource growth of $485,300, or 0.9 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The increase is the result of a range of adjustments in the activities and related resources proposed for this section, as reflected in table 21.3 below, which may be summarized as follows:

(a) The decrease of $12,300 for policymaking organs is due to reduced requirements for interpretation services;

(b) The increase of $49,300 under executive direction and management is the net result of: (i) proposed reclassification of the post of the Secretary of the Commission from P-5 to D-1 level as a result of merging the functions of the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission ($44,400); and (ii) additional non-post requirements ($4,900);

(c) The increase of $1,010,200 under the programme of work is the net result of: (i) an increase of $1,015,900 under posts owing to the redeployment of three posts (1 P-5 and 1 Local level to subprogramme 2 and 1 Local level to subprogramme 4) from programme support ($572,300) and the delayed impact of the establishment of four posts (1 P-2 in subprogramme 1, 1 P-2 and 1 P-3 in subprogramme 3, and 1 P-3 in subprogramme 6) in the biennium 2006-2007 ($443,600); and (ii) a marginal decrease under non-post requirements ($5,700);

(d) The decrease of $561,900 under programme support is the net result of: (i) a decrease as a result of the outward redeployment of three posts to the subprogrammes as outlined above ($572,300); and (ii) an increase of $10,400 under non-post resources, as a result of additional requirements for the ESCWA contribution to the joint medical services unit, partially offset by reduced requirements under contractual services and supplies.

21.14 During the biennium 2008-2009, expected extrabudgetary resources, amounting to $9,064,100, would be utilized to supplement resources from the regular budget to finance activities aimed at national capacity-building, including advisory service missions, training workshops and field projects.

21.15 The issue of publications as a part of the programme of work has been reviewed in the context of each subprogramme. It is anticipated that recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be issued as summarized below and as described in the output information for each subprogramme.

Table 21.1 **Summary of publications**

Publications	*2004-2005 actual*	*2006-2007 estimate*	*2008-2009 estimate*
Recurrent	27	31	30
Non-recurrent	32	19	23
Total	**59**	**50**	**53**

21.16 Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, resources identified for the conduct of monitoring and evaluation would amount to $479,400, financed from the programme budget and reflected under subprogrammes 1 to 7.

21.17 It would be recalled that in his note to the General Assembly (A/61/758), the Secretary-General submitted his comments on the recommendations contained in the report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice (A/61/205), and identified the time and resources needed to implement the Panel's recommendations. The note is currently under consideration by the General Assembly in its resumed sixty-first session. Accordingly, the proposed resource redeployments and growth sought in the note (A/61/758) have not been incorporated under the present budget section. Following consideration, decisions of the General Assembly on these resource proposals would be incorporated in the budget appropriation at the time of adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 in December 2007.

21.18 The estimated percentage distribution of resources under this section would be as shown in table 21.2 below.

Table 21.2 **Distribution of resources by component**

(Percentage)

Component	*Regular budget*	*Extrabudgetary*
A. Policymaking organs	0.2	—
B. Executive direction and management	6.0	—
C. Programme of work		
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	9.9	10.8
2. Integrated social policies	9.1	4.1
3. Economic development and integration	11.9	6.2
4. Information and communication technology for regional integration	6.5	20.8
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	6.0	5.9
6. Advancement of women	4.0	5.7
7. Conflict mitigation and development	3.3	41.5
Subtotal C	**50.7**	**95.0**
D. Programme support	43.1	5.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 21.3 **Resource requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	2004-2005 expenditure	2006-2007 appropriation	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2008-2009 estimate
			Amount	Percentage			
A. Policymaking organs	93.8	138.4	(12.3)	(8.9)	126.1	7.5	133.6
B. Executive direction and management	2 889.2	3 365.4	49.3	1.5	3 414.7	174.8	3 589.5
C. Programme of work	23 566.9	27 770.9	1 010.2	3.6	28 781.1	1 413.6	30 194.7
D. Programme support	23 279.8	25 049.9	(561.9)	(2.2)	24 488.0	1 353.2	25 841.2
Subtotal	**49 829.7**	**56 324.6**	**485.3**	**0.9**	**56 809.9**	**2 949.1**	**59 759.0**

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

	2004-2005 expenditure	2006-2007 estimate	2008-2009 estimate
Subtotal	**4 753.4**	**11 729.5**	**9 064.1**
Total (1) and (2)	**54 583.1**	**68 054.1**	**68 823.1**

Table 21.4 **Post requirements**

Category	Established regular budget posts		Temporary posts				Total	
			Regular budget		Extrabudgetary			
	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009
Professional and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	7	8	—	—	—	—	7	8
P-5	23	22	—	—	—	—	23	22
P-4/3	60	60	—	—	—	—	60	60
P-2/1	18	18	—	—	—	—	18	18
Subtotal	**110**	**110**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**110**	**110**
Other								
Local level	144	144	—	—	—	—	144	144
Field Service	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Subtotal	**145**	**145**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**145**	**145**
Total	**255**	**255**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**255**	**255**

A. Policymaking organs

Resource requirements (before recosting): $126,100

21.19 The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is comprised of 13 member States. The Commission, which reports to the Economic and Social Council, provides overall direction to the work of the secretariat. It meets once biennially for five working days, normally at its headquarters. As mandated by resolution 223 (XX) which was adopted on 27 May 1999 at the twentieth session of the Commission, the Preparatory Committee will meet prior to the plenary of the Commission to consider programmatic agenda items. Consequently, the twenty-fifth session will be convened in 2008, with a session comprising the Preparatory Committee Segment (3 days in 2008), followed by the Ministerial Plenary Segment (2 days in 2008).

21.20 The Commission has seven specialized subsidiary intergovernmental committees, six of them meet biennially and one meets annually. During the biennium 2008-2009, the sequence and dates of their sessions will be as follows: (a) the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (subprogramme 1) (2 days in 2008); (b) the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources (subprogramme 1) (3 days in 2009); (c) the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development (subprogramme 2) (3 days in 2009); (d) the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee on Transport (subprogramme 3) (3 days in 2008 and 3 days in 2009); (e) the sixth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region (subprogramme 3) (2 days in 2009); (f) the eighth session of the Statistical Committee (subprogramme 5) (3 days in 2008); and (g) the fourth session Committee on Women (subprogramme 6) (3 days in 2008).

21.21 At its twenty-fourth session, the Commission decided to establish a Technical Committee with the aim of enhancing interaction and close consultation between the members of the Commission and its secretariat on substantive development issues. The sessions of the Technical Committee shall be held every six months (2 days twice in 2008 and 2 days twice in 2009).

21.22 The Advisory Committee of Ambassadors meets quarterly to ensure the continued dialogue between the secretariat and member States. It comprises heads of diplomatic missions in the host country of the Commission, as well as a high-level representative of the host country. The Advisory Committee plays a consultative role and functions as a principal means of communication between member States and the ESCWA secretariat and among member States themselves on important matters requiring attention during the period between the biennial sessions of the Commission (1 day 4 times in 2008 and 1 day 4 times in 2009).

Table 21.5 **Resource requirements: policymaking organs**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Non-post	138.4	126.1	—	—
Total	**138.4**	**126.1**	—	—

21.23 A provision of $126,100, reflecting a decrease of $12,300, is required under: (a) temporary assistance for meetings to provide interpretation and translation services; and (b) general temporary assistance during the session of the Commission, that of the Preparatory Committee, as well as the sessions of its seven subsidiary intergovernmental committees. The reduced requirement is mainly due to lower requirements for interpretation services.

B. Executive direction and management

Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,414,700

21.24 Executive direction and management comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary and the ESCWA United Nations Information Services.

21.25 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall direction and integrated management, programme oversight, planning and coordination, as well as policy guidelines to the substantive divisions, the technical cooperation programme and other support services. It ensures that ESCWA plays an effective role in the economic and social development of the region, and that issues of global importance are translated into regional action as mandated by member States. The Office also facilitates the articulation of the collective concerns of member countries by incorporating them into the global agenda. Moreover, the Office maintains effective and regular contact with representatives of member States, to exchange views on substantive issues of mutual concern, with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and with the regional commissions coordination office in New York. It also ensures: (a) more effective collaboration and coordination between ESCWA and the rest of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; (b) proper implementation of the work programme of ESCWA as mandated by the General Assembly; and (c) the realization of United Nations system-wide policies and mandates, as well as specific recommendations.

21.26 In addition, the Office of the Executive Secretary is directly involved in the functioning and servicing of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission, including its biennial session and its subsidiary bodies, the ESCWA Advisory Committee of Ambassadors and the ESCWA Technical Committee. Furthermore, the Office is responsible for: (a) overseeing the coordination of the activities of the secretariat of the United Nations Regional Coordination Group; and (b) ensuring that expert group meetings, workshops and other meetings organized by the divisions in ESCWA contribute to the attainment of overall policy orientation.

21.27 The Office of the Executive Secretary also gives overall direction to services rendered by the ESCWA United Nations Information Services, whose core functions are to disseminate public information on the work of ESCWA throughout the region and to provide information services to the Office and the Divisions of ESCWA. The activities of the ESCWA United Nations Information Services aim at increasing public awareness and understanding of the work conducted by the United Nations, in general, and ESCWA, in particular, and mobilizing public support for the increased role of ESCWA in the economic and social development of the region. These activities will include: disseminating information on the activities carried out by the secretariat to the media; issuing press releases, bulletins, information kits, and other information material such as booklets, newsletters, pamphlets and brochures to cover general and special events; producing quality electronic, audio and video material; launching media campaigns; organizing interviews, press conferences, round-table discussions; participating in major local, regional or international exhibitions; and preparing lectures and briefings on the activities of the United Nations.

Table 21.6 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To ensure full implementation of legislative mandates and compliance with United Nations policies and procedures with respect to the management of the programme of work and of staff and financial resources.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) The ESCWA programme of work is effectively managed and supported by human and financial resources	(a) (i) Timely delivery of outputs and services *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 90 per cent Estimate 2006-2007: 90 per cent Target 2008-2009: 93 per cent (ii) The efficient and effective use of resources *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 99.3 per cent of expenditure, compared to funds authorized Estimate 2006-2007: 100 per cent of expenditure, compared to funds authorized Target 2008-2009: 100 per cent of expenditure, compared to funds authorized
(b) Timely recruitment and placement of staff	(b) Reduction in the average number of days a Professional post remains vacant *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 146 days Estimate 2006-2007: 188 days Target 2008-2009: 150 days
(c) Improved geographical representation and gender balance of staff	(c) (i) Increased percentage of staff recruited from unrepresented and underrepresented member States in the Commission *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 33.3 per cent Estimate 2006-2007: 35 per cent Target 2008-2009: 35 per cent

	(ii) Increased percentage of women at the Professional level and above for appointments of one year or more *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 44.5 per cent Estimate 2006-2007: 46 per cent Target 2008-2009: 50 per cent
(d) Identification of emerging issues that require attention by member States	(d) Increased number of occasions that member States address issues that have been brought to their attention *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 88 recommendations made by intergovernmental bodies Estimate 2006-2007: 92 recommendations made by intergovernmental bodies Target 2008-2009: 95 recommendations made by intergovernmental bodies
(e) Enhanced coordination in the management of the economic and social activities by the United Nations and other regional actors	(e) Increased number of activities carried out in collaboration with other entities that contribute to enhanced coordination *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 7 per cent of outputs Estimate 2006-2007: 7.5 per cent of outputs Target 2008-2009: 9 per cent of outputs
(f) Increased public awareness of ESCWA work in pursuing regional priorities and emerging issues	(f) (i) Increased media coverage of ESCWA activities *Performance measures* 2004-2005: ESCWA activities are covered in audio, visual and written press 520 times Estimate 2006-2007: ESCWA activities are covered in audio, visual and written press 624 times Target 2008-2009: ESCWA activities are covered in audio, visual and written press 832 times

(ii) Increased number of clients of public information serviced by ESCWA

Performance measures

2004-2005: 1,910 clients

Estimate 2006-2007: 2,850 clients

Target 2008-2009: 3,670 clients

External factors

21.28 The Office is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political stability in the host country and the region; (b) member Governments will actively participate in the formulation of the ESCWA programme of work; (c) member countries have the capacity and will to reorient their economic and social structures and policies; (d) national institutions will be willing to provide relevant and timely information; and (e) there are no shortfalls in financial resources.

Table 21.7 **Resource requirements: executive direction and management**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	3 162.9	3 207.3	16	16
Non-post	202.5	207.4	—	—
Subtotal	**3 365.4**	**3 414.7**	**16**	**16**
Extrabudgetary	145.7	—	—	—
Total	**3 511.1**	**3 414.7**	**16**	**16**

21.29 The amount of $3,207,300 under posts, reflecting an increase of $44,400, provides for the funding of the 16 posts as indicated in the above table. The additional requirement relates to the proposed reclassification of the current post of the Secretary of the Commission from P-5 to D-1 level. The proposal reflects the merger of the functions of the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary (P-4) with those of the Secretary of the Commission (P-5), in line with other regional commissions. The main functions of the new post, Secretary of the Commission/Chief of staff (D-1), would include: (a) planning and servicing the intergovernmental sessions; (b) maintaining relations with member States; (c) leading the gradual introduction, formulation and implementation of an ESCWA knowledge management policy and strategy; and (d) performing the entire array of substantive, administrative and managerial functions previously performed by the Special Assistant.

21.30 The report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the inspection of the programme and administrative management of ESCWA (A/61/61) included a recommendation (SP-04-003-014) that a dedicated post of knowledge manager should be established with an incumbent being a recognized expert in that area and provided with all necessary authority and resources to implement the action plan. With the merger of the functions of the post of Special

Assistant with that of the Secretary of the Commission as outlined above, it is proposed that the P-4 post (formerly of the Special Assistant) be used for the functions of Economic Affairs Officer in order to implement the OIOS recommendation. The main functions of the post would be to develop, implement, monitor and continuously improve a knowledge management policy and strategy for ESCWA.

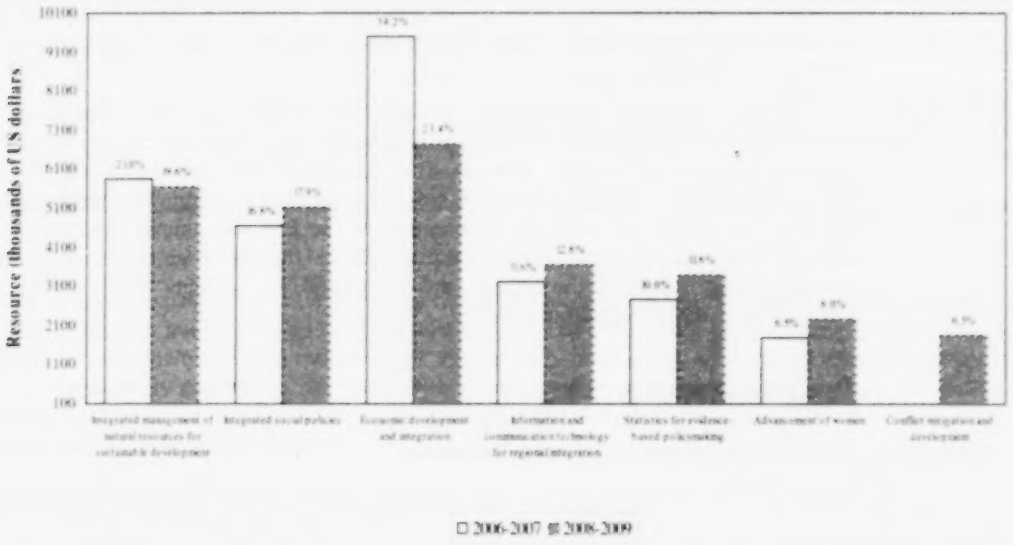
21.31 The related non-post requirements of $207,400, reflecting an increase of $4,900, include provisions for: (a) general temporary assistance and overtime which would provide for the preparation and servicing of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; (b) consultants to undertake studies in areas that do not fall within the expertise of the substantive divisions in connection with the preparation of the ESCWA annual report; (c) two annual think tank meetings which would serve as a platform for the exchange of views among experts on the salient priority issues of the region; and (d) travel requirements of the Office of the Executive Secretary and the information services.

C. Programme of work

Table 21.8 **Resource requirements by subprogramme**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Subprogramme	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	5 844.1	5 647.6	25	24
2. Integrated social policies	4 662.9	5 151.2	20	22
3. Economic development and integration	9 484.0	6 744.6	40	29
4. Information and communication technology for regional integration	3 212.6	3 670.1	13	15
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	2 759.6	3 406.4	13	15
6. Advancement of women	1 807.7	2 288.4	9	10
7. Conflict mitigation and development	—	1 872.8	—	8
Subtotal	**27 770.9**	**28 781.1**	**120**	**123**
Extrabudgetary	10 699.8	8 608.5	—	—
Total	**38 470.7**	**37 389.6**	**120**	**123**

Regular budget resource requirements by subprogramme



Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Resource requirements (before recosting): $5,647,600

21.32 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 1 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.9 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To improve the sustainable management of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy, and the production sectors, taking into account environmental considerations.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate, adopt and implement policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries of the region for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (goals 1 and 7) *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 15 policies/measures adopted

	Estimate 2006-2007: 20 policies/measures adopted Target 2008-2009: 26 policies/measures adopted (ii) Increased number of member countries developing, adopting and/or implementing policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of energy and water resources *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 5 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 9 countries Target 2008-2009: 15 countries
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply best practices and methods for improving sustainable rural development and increasing competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries applying best practices and methods to promote sustainable rural development *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 2 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 4 countries Target 2008-2009: 6 countries (ii) Increased number of measures and best practices or initiatives adopted to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 measures/best practices/ initiatives adopted Estimate 2006-2007: 8 measures/best practices/initiatives adopted Target 2008-2009: 10 measures/best practices/initiatives adopted

(c) Improved cooperation among member countries on energy and water issues, including the prevention of water and environment-related disputes	(c) (i) Increased number of member countries requesting ESCWA to enhance their negotiation skills for the joint management of shared water resources *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 3 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 6 countries Target 2008-2009: 8 countries (ii) Increased number of projects and actions undertaken by member countries through regional cooperation mechanisms on water and energy *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 projects Estimate 2006-2007: 6 projects Target 2008-2009: 8 projects
(d) Increased use by member countries of tools and techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors	(d) Number of countries adopting innovative technology and management initiatives to enhance competitiveness and more sustainable and efficient use of such technology *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 2 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 5 countries Target 2008-2009: 7 countries

External factors

21.33 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to adopt and apply the sustainable development policies advocated by world summits and by global and regional conferences; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in funding; and (c) political stability is improved, thereby allowing for a better cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as a more effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Outputs

21.34 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report to the Commission on the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources; report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Committee on Energy;

(ii) Committee on Water Resources:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the eighth session of the Committee (6);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on means to expedite the realization of the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation in ESCWA member countries; report on water quality management issues in ESCWA member countries;

(iii) Committee on Energy:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the seventh session of the Committee (4);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on approaches for promoting the ESCWA region as an attractive market for emission trading through Clean Development Mechanism projects; report on the 10-year framework on sustainable energy production and consumption in ESCWA member countries;

(iv) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: adopting the sustainable livelihoods approach for promoting rural development in the ESCWA region; applying integrated water resources management principles in managing shared water resources in the ESCWA region; best practices and measures for promoting renewable energy applications in ESCWA region; high-level regional meeting on promoting water supply and sanitation policies and related organizational reforms; sustainable land management as a best practice to enhance rural development in the ESCWA region; and the role of energy networks in regional integration;

(v) Assistance to representatives, rapporteurs: substantive support to the Executive Secretariat of the ESCWA/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/LAS Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Electricity;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: *ESCWA Water Development report, No. 3: Role of desalination in addressing water scarcity; and review of productivity and sustainable development in the ESCWA region*;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: approaches for improving energy efficiency in the downstream energy subsectors in ESCWA member countries; enhancing regional cooperation on energy issues towards achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals in ESCWA member countries; increasing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the ESCWA region, through environmentally sound technologies; knowledge mapping and needs assessment of ESCWA member countries capacities in managing shared water resources; and LAS and ESCWA joint study on the effect of peace and security on the environment and sustainable development in the Arab region; and regional survey on the status and achievements of ESCWA member countries towards improved water supply and sanitation;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: fact sheets on best practices and tools for large-scale deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency techniques;

information kit for the Committee on Energy; information kit for the Committee on Water Resources; promotional material for the Arab Environment Day (2); promotional material for the World Environment Day (2); promotional material for the World Water Day (2); promotional material on energy issues in the region (2); promotional material on environment issues in the region (2); and promotional material on water resources issues in the region (2);

(iv) Technical material: development and maintenance of the ESCWA home page on water, environment, energy issues, and enterprise development; development and refinement of Arabic terminology in the field of productivity and sustainable development; promoting and adopting sustainable livelihoods and land management as best practice and approach for enhancing rural development in the ESCWA region; and technical material on best practices and tools for increasing productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors;

(v) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: substantive support to the United Nations coordination bodies, regional and global forums on water, energy, production sector and environment issues (2);

(vi) Documentation for inter-agency meetings: substantive contribution to the Hashimoto Action Plan (global sanitation conference); and substantive contribution to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (sixteenth and seventeenth sessions) on issues of land degradation and desertification (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: advisory missions at the request of member countries on issues related to sustainable development;

(ii) Field projects: the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network; capacity-building on renewable energy technology applications for poverty alleviation in rural areas in the ESCWA member countries; enhancing capacity of developing countries to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products in order to improve their trade competitiveness in the ESCWA region; promoting the application of energy efficiency measures in the ESCWA region; and support to ESCWA member countries in the field of water resources.

Table 21.10 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 1**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	5 554.9	5 330.9	25	24
Non-post	289.2	316.7	—	—
Subtotal	**5 844.1**	**5 647.6**	**25**	**24**
Extrabudgetary	334.9	976.8	—	—
Total	**6 179.0**	**6 624.4**	**25**	**24**

21.35 The amount of $5,330,900 under posts, reflecting a decrease of $224,000, would provide for the continued funding of 24 posts. The net decrease of $224,000 relates to the outward redeployment of one P-4 post ($320,800) to subprogramme 6, Advancement of women, partially offset by increased requirements related to the delayed impact of one P-2 post established in the biennium 2006-2007 ($96,800). For the biennium 2008-2009, the subprogramme objective aims to improve the sustainable management and use of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy, environmental protection and the production sectors through the coordination of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs pursuant to the 2005 World Summit Outcome. With the increased cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office in Western Asia, the outward redeployment would not adversely impact the work of the subprogramme.

21.36 The related non-post requirements of $316,700, reflecting an increase of $27,500, would be required for other personnel costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The additional requirements are mainly due to the increase in the number of planned expert group meetings from five in the biennium 2006-2007 to six in the biennium 2008-2009.

21.37 Extrabudgetary resources of $976,800 would be utilized for activities aimed at national capacity-building on renewable energy services for poverty alleviation to the rural areas, and promoting the adoption and application on energy efficiency measures in the ESCWA region.

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Resource requirements (before recosting): $5,151,200

21.38 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Social Development Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 2 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.11 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacity to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable social development that is region-specific and culturally sensitive.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to promote and formulate integrated social development policies that are region-specific and culturally sensitive to achieve social equity, poverty reduction and sustainable population	(a) (i) Increased number of government offices/civil society organizations that initiated, with ESCWA assistance, advocacy and awareness-raising activities to promote the development of integrated social development policies that are region-specific and culturally sensitive *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 8 government offices/civil society organizations

	Estimate 2006-2007: 12 government offices/civil society organizations Target 2008-2009: 24 government offices/civil society organizations (ii) Increased number of member countries that initiated, with ESCWA assistance, the formulation of integrated social development policies *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero countries Estimate 2006-2007: 4 countries Target 2008-2009: 8 countries (iii) Increased number of sectoral development policies, plans and/or programmes initiated with ESCWA assistance, with special emphasis on youth and migration *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero policies Estimate 2006-2007: 8 policies Target 2008-2009: 24 policies
(b) Increased capacity of member countries to develop and operationalize intersectoral social development plans, programmes and/or projects that focus on youth, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and the rural and urban poor	(b) Increased number of intersectoral social development plans, programmes and/or projects that target capacity-building in response to women, youth and persons with disabilities, with ESCWA assistance *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero plans, programmes, and/or projects Estimate 2006-2007: 4 plans, programmes, and/or projects Target 2008-2009: 6 plans, programmes, and/or projects

External factors

21.39 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to accord priority to social development issues;

(b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (c) the political situation in the region remains stable.

Outputs

21.40 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development;

(ii) Committee on Social Development:

a. Substantive servicing of the seventh session of the Committee (6);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports on emerging issues related to integrated social policies (3);

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: the Arab forum for social policies; enhancing partnerships between government entities and the civil society institutions based on the social participatory approach in the ESCWA countries; equity for social policy in urban settings; localizing social policy in the ESCWA region at the city level; peer review on the outline of the report on integrated social policies; reinforcing social equity; and integrating population groups in the ESCWA region;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: integrated social policies report; ESCWA population and development report: a regional strategy for integrating youth, the aged, and the family in development planning;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: mapping of social inequity in the ESCWA region; and status and prospects of the Arab city II: a social policy design to foster social inclusion;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: brochures on the specific themes of the sessions, for dissemination at the forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Commission on Population and Development (2); information kits on issues of equity, social development, sustainable growth and the Millennium Development Goals (4); social development bulletins (8); and the demographic profiles of the Arab countries;

(iv) Special events: launching of the publication on mapping of social inequity in the ESCWA region; and special event on youth;

(v) Technical material: facilitation and support for the Social Development Network; guide on the identification and collection of social development indicators in the ESCWA region; guide on the social participatory approach to strengthen the capacities of civil society and public sector institutions in contributing to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of social policy in ESCWA member countries; maintenance and updating of the Social Development Division home page; maintenance and upgrading of the United Nations Population and Information Network (POPIN) website; role of the media in promoting and advocating social development in the ESCWA region; and social policy briefs (6);

(vi) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: panel discussion on the position of ESCWA member countries on a selected issue in contribution to the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum;

(vii) Documentation for inter-agency meetings: regional inputs to the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the Commission on Social Development (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: advisory missions to enhance the capacity of member states in formulating social policies and monitoring their institutionalization;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: regional training for policy makers on issues in integrated social policies and social development indicators;

(iii) Field projects: international migration in the Middle East: comparative analyses and proposals for the creation of a network for exchanging common strategies; interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals process; participatory human development in post-conflict countries in the ESCWA; and regional campaign on secure tenure and good urban governance, phase II.

Table 21.12 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 2**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	4 374.2	4 851.4	20	22
Non-post	288.7	299.8	—	—
Subtotal	**4 662.9**	**5 151.2**	**20**	**22**
Extrabudgetary	621.7	370.2	—	—
Total	**5 284.6**	**5 521.4**	**20**	**22**

21.41 The amount of $4,851,400 under posts, reflecting an increase of $477,200, would provide for the funding of 22 posts. The increase of $477,200 relates to the inward redeployment of one P-5 and one local level posts from programme support. The 2005 World Summit Outcome recognized the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts and to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families. The proposed inward redeployment would strengthen the work of the subprogramme in addressing the issues related to migration, rural and urban migration, and intra/inter-regional migration and their interlinkage with poverty, which will also feed into the development of integrated social development policies that aims to achieve social equity, poverty reduction and sustainable population.

21.42 The requirements for non-post resources in the amount of $299,800, reflecting an increase of $11,100, would provide for other personnel costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The increase is attributable mainly to the additional requirements under general temporary assistance to promote and disseminate information on the work of the subprogramme electronically, and advocate for the concept of integrated social policies, mainly through preparing information kits and technical material, and upgrading the POPIN website and the Social Development Network.

21.43 Extrabudgetary resources of $370,200 would be used to enhance the capacities of member countries in the adoption of an integrated and participatory approach for social policy formulation and implementation, prioritization of social policy concerns in national development strategies, and collection of social development indicators.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Resource requirements (before recosting): $6,744,600

21.44 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Economic Development and Integration Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 3 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.13 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of member countries to design and implement sound economic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation and for regional integration in a globalizing world.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge among stakeholders in the region of the issues that should be taken into account in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation in line with the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of stakeholders in the region acknowledging that they benefited from ESCWA macroeconomic analysis, policy recommendations and forecasts *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 36 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users Estimate 2006-2007: 43 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users Target 2008-2009: 50 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users (ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance to promote and implement macroeconomic policy and financing for development measures, based on ESCWA work *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero requests Estimate 2006-2007: 4 requests Target 2008-2009: 7 requests

(b) Enhanced capacity of the member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade and investment agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade and investment flows	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries accepting and/or adopting trade negotiation proposals and facilitation schemes/measures suggested by ESCWA *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 1 country Estimate 2006-2007: 2 countries Target 2008-2009: 3 countries (ii) Increased number of member countries negotiating and implementing trade agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade flows with ESCWA support *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 2 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 2 countries Target 2008-2009: 4 countries (iii) Increased number of member countries negotiating and implementing investment agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional investment flows as well as integrating the Monterrey Consensus into their economic strategies and policies, with ESCWA support *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 7 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 9 countries Target 2008-2009: 11 countries
(c) Strengthened capacity of member countries to formulate and implement policies and programmes for improving transport infrastructure and logistics within the framework of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM)	(c) (i) Percentage of the length of the ITSAM road network that meets the requirements of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 25 per cent Estimate 2006-2007: 50 per cent Target 2008-2009: 70 per cent

	(ii) Increased number of policy measures adopted by member countries in relation to the implementation of ITSAM *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 policy measures Estimate 2006-2007: 16 policy measures Target 2008-2009: 26 policy measures
(d) Greater participation in the multilateral trading system	(d) Increased number of rules, regulations and policies adopted by member countries in conformity with World Trade Organization provisions and regional agreements *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 5 rules/regulations/policies Estimate 2006-2007: 7 rules/regulations/policies Target 2008-2009: 10 rules/regulations/policies
(e) Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries	(e) Number of countries accepting and/or adopting harmonization schemes proposed by ESCWA in order to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, persons and capital *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 16 countries Target 2008-2009: 26 countries

External factors

21.45 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to increase their subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding; (c) the political situation in the region is stable; and (d) up-to-date and reliable economic and transport statistics are made available.

Outputs

21.46 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report of the eighth session of the Committee on Transport; report of the fifth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic

Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region; report of the ninth session of the Committee on Transport; report on key macroeconomic issues; and report on the progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region;

(ii) Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the sixth session of the Technical Committee (4);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on the assessment of the Monterrey Consensus in the ESCWA region; and report on the assessment of trade policy trends;

(iii) Committee on Transport:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the ninth and the tenth sessions of the Committee (12);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on progress made on improving road safety in the ESCWA region; report on the implementation of national committees on transport and trade facilitation; report on the implementation of regional priority routes of the International Road Transport Agreement; report on the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; report on the implementation of the Agreement on Railways in the Arab Mashreq; and report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport;

(iv) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: assessment of regional economic integration among ESCWA members; assessment of trade policy trends in the ESCWA region; external peer review for the *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the countries of the ESCWA Region* (2); external peer review for the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region* (2); international transport facilitation in the ESCWA region; LAS-United Nations joint regional Millennium Development Goals report; multimodal transport legislation in the ESCWA region; preparation of Arab trade ministers for the Seventh World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; and regional preparatory meeting in Western Asia for the Second International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the countries of the ESCWA Region* (2); *Economic Trends and Impacts*; LAS-United Nations joint regional Millennium Development Goal report; *Progress made by ESCWA member countries in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus*; and *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region*, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: assessment of trade policy trends and impact on improving trade performance in the ESCWA region; economic regional integration in the Arab world; and requirements for establishing a single window for handling export/import procedures and formalities in ESCWA member countries;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: brochure on the work of ESCWA in promoting financing for development; learning from good practices in Islamic banking

in Asia; map on the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq; and pamphlets on the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (3);

(iv) Special events: launching of LAS-United Nations joint regional Millennium Development Goal report; launching of the *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region* (2); and launching of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments of the ESCWA Region* (2);

(v) Technical material: briefing papers on selected World Trade Organization negotiations issues in preparation of ESCWA members to the next World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; development and maintenance of the Geographical Information System database for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (2); institutional framework governing transport in the ESCWA region; maintenance and updating of the ESCWA home page on economic development and integration (2); methodological framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq; multimodal transport legislation and practices in the ESCWA region; regional economic forecasts (4); and regional investment directory;

(vi) Contribution to joint outputs: regional inputs to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs annual publication: *World Economic Situation and Prospects* (2); regional inputs to the UNCTAD *World Investment Report* (2); and regional inputs to the *United Nations Joint Annual Report on Trade* (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: foreign direct investment; trade and World Trade Organization negotiations and accession;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: the Arab Trade Ministerial Conference in Preparation of the Seventh World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; seminar on increasing participation in multilateral trading negotiations; and training workshop on increasing awareness of World Trade Organization agreements for business community in the Arab region;

(iii) Field projects: foreign direct investment outflows from the ESCWA region; implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq; and promoting subregional growth oriented economic and trade policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in West Asia.

Table 21.14 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 3**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	8 882.6	6 315.0	40	29
Non-post	601.4	429.6	—	—
Subtotal	**9 484.0**	**6 744.6**	**40**	**29**
Extrabudgetary	1 384.7	559.2	—	—
Total	**10 868.7**	**7 303.8**	**40**	**29**

21.47 The amount of $6,315,000 under posts, reflecting a decrease of $2,567,600, would provide for the continued funding of 29 posts. The net decrease of $2,567,600 relates to the outward redeployment of 11 posts (1 P-5 to subprogramme 4; 1 D-1 and 1 P-2 to subprogramme 5; and 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 3 Local level to the newly established subprogramme 7) ($2,789,400), partially offset by increased requirements related to the delayed impact of one P-3 and one P-2 posts established in the biennium 2006-2007 ($221,800). The subprogramme is newly created as the result of merging the two existing subprogrammes (subprogramme 3, Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development, and subprogramme 4, Regional integration and responding to globalization) in the biennium 2006-2007. The proposed outward redeployment is the net result of the rationalization of the work, focusing on the regional monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development, the Doha Development Agenda and the development of regional integrated transport system.

21.48 The requirements for non-post resources in the amount of $429,600, reflecting a decrease of $171,800, would be required for other personnel related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The reduced requirements reflect the reallocation of resources to other subprogrammes as a result of the merger.

21.49 Extrabudgetary resources of $559,200 would contribute to promoting subregional growth-oriented economic and trade policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA region.

Subprogramme 4
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,670,100

21.50 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Information and Communication Technology Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 4 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.15 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To narrow the digital divide and to build an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society in accordance with internationally agreed development goals and objectives.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, particularly in relation to the information and communication technology (ICT) sector	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries implementing policies and plans of action to enhance the information and communication technology sector *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 6 countries Target 2008-2009: 8 countries

		(ii) Increased number of core information and communication technology indicators measured by all member countries *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero core ICT indicators measured Estimate 2006-2007: 5 core ICT indicators measured Target 2008-2009: 20 core ICT indicators measured
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to provide e-services in Arabic targeting socio-economic development	(b)	(i) Increased number of information and communication technology applications deployed by member countries to provide e services with ESCWA assistance *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero ICT applications deployed Estimate 2006-2007: 3 ICT applications deployed Target 2008-2009: 6 ICT applications deployed (ii) Increased number of information and communication technology field projects initiated or promoted by ESCWA that target government services and local community development *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 ICT field projects initiated/promoted Estimate 2006-2007: 7 ICT field projects initiated/promoted Target 2008-2009: 10 ICT field projects initiated/promoted

External factors

21.51 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (b) the political stability is sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region and to enable an effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Outputs

21.52 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report on the establishment of the Technology Centre;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation: report on follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Agenda (ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society);

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: developing the ICT sector in the ESCWA region; fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation; ICT applications and e-services in the public sector in the ESCWA region; and regional follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Agenda (ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Recurrent publications: regional profile of the information society in Western Asia; and review of information and communication technologies and development (4);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: building trust in e-services in the ESCWA region; impact of ICT on community development in ESCWA member countries; and Internet governance: challenges and prospects for the Arab region;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: brochure on ESCWA work on ICT; brochure on the ESCWA Technology Centre; brochures and posters on regional follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Agenda (ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society) (4); and leaflets on major issues in ICT in the region and major achievements of ESCWA in that area (2);

(iv) Technical material: development and maintenance of an Information Society Portal, in support of the global alliance for ICT and development; development and refinement of Arabic terminology in the field of ICT; ESCWA Statistical Information System/ICT module update and development; maintenance of the ESCWA home page on information and communications technology; and national profiles of information and communications technology in Western Asia (including core ICT indicators);

(v) Documentation for inter-agency meetings: regional input to the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society (including promoting the core ICT indicators as follow-up to the Tunis Agenda);

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: workshop on delivery of e-services in civil society;

(iii) Field projects: development of an Arabic domain names system; ESCWA Excellence Award for best achievement in building the information society; establishment of information and communication technology incubating facilities for promoting digital Arabic content industry through private-public partnerships; ICT for education in Iraq;

knowledge networks through information and communications technology access points for disadvantaged communities; and support to the ESCWA Technology Centre.

Table 21.16 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 4**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	2 977.8	3 455.0	13	15
Non-post	234.8	215.1	—	—
Subtotal	**3 212.6**	**3 670.1**	**13**	**15**
Extrabudgetary	6 939.7	1 884.9	—	—
Total	**10 152.3**	**5 555.0**	**13**	**15**

21.53 The amount of $3,455,000 under posts, reflecting an increase of $477,200, would provide for the funding of 15 posts. The increase of $477,200 relates to the inward redeployment of two posts (1 P-5 from subprogramme 3 and 1 Local level from programme support). The proposed inward redeployment would strengthen the work pertaining to ICT applications, especially the provision of e-services in Arabic, targeting socio-economic development, more specifically e-government and digital Arabic content. The work is important in bridging the widening digital divide between Gulf (major energy producing countries) and other member countries (least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict) and between cities and rural areas.

21.54 The requirements under non-post resources of $215,100, reflecting a decrease of $19,700, would provide for other personnel-related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The decrease relates to the overall requirements under expert group meetings which is due mainly to a reduced number of participants.

21.55 Extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $1,884,900 would enable member countries to harness their development potential in building a knowledge-based society, through increasing the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, particularly in relation to the information and communications technology sector, and supporting the provision of e-services in Arabic aimed at furthering socio-economic development.

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Resource requirement (before recosting): $3,406,400

21.56 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Statistics Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 5 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.17 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of member countries to produce and disseminate timely, accurate and comparable socio-economic statistics and indicators to be used by national and international decision makers and civil society for evidence-based policymaking.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to improve the national institutional framework for official statistics	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries taking measures to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero countries Estimate 2006-2007: 2 countries Target 2008-2009: 4 countries (ii) Increased number of member countries committing to implement the United Nations Statistical Commission's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero countries Estimate 2006-2007: zero countries Target 2008-2009: 6 countries
(b) Strengthened capacity of member countries to participate effectively in the 2010 round of population censuses, household surveys and other surveys as a statistical requisite for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries taking concrete measures with ESCWA assistance to participate effectively in the 2010 round *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero countries Estimate 2006-2007: 3 countries Target 2008-2009: 13 countries (ii) Increased number of member countries that provide the ESCWA repository of data with at least 60 per cent of the core set of development indicators, including the Millennium Development Goals and gender dimension

Performance measures

2004-2005: 3 countries

Estimate 2006-2007: 5 countries

Target 2008-2009: 7 countries

External factors

21.57 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to commit and provide political support to improve their national institutional frameworks for official statistics; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (c) the political situation in the region is stable.

Outputs

21.58 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report of the seventh session of the Statistical Committee; report on strengthening the role of statistical systems at the national level in line with the Principles of Official Statistics;

(ii) Statistical Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the eighth session of the Committee (6); and substantive servicing of meetings of the second session of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee to formulate the strategy for the organization of the eighth session of the Committee (2);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on the challenges and opportunities in the ESCWA region to accelerate the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and its revision; and report on the progress achieved towards strengthening the national capacities in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: 1993 System of National Accounts; compilation and analysis of energy statistics and indicators; measurement of poverty indices; taskforce meeting on 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2); and working group of heads of national statistical offices in the ESCWA region;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: *National Accounts Studies in the ESCWA Region Bulletin* (2); *Compendium of Environment Statistics*; *Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators*; *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region* (2); *Bulletin on Population and Vital Statistics* (2); and *Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region* (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: framework for environmental/economic accounting in the ESCWA region: energy accounts; regional handbook on poverty measurement, including best practices in the ESCWA region; study on integrated household surveys in the ESCWA region, to enhance the production of indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals; study on international trade: sources, methods, and

conceptual framework in the ESCWA region; and study on national accounts in the ESCWA region: sources and methods;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: information kits on the work of ESCWA in the statistical field, including one for the Statistical Committee (2); monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: statistical report; and the statistical systems in the ESCWA region (2);

(iv) Technical material: development and refinement of Arabic terminology in the field of statistics; maintenance and updating of ESCWA home page on statistics; and maintenance and updating of ESCWA Statistical Information System;

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: harmonization of economic statistics and implementing 1993 System of National Accounts, international trade and environment statistics and indicators; population and housing censuses, household surveys, social and gender statistics and indicators;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: seminars on selected statistical issues for heads of national statistical offices in the ESCWA region; United Nations Development Group-ESCWA joint regional training workshop on DevInfo; and United Nations Statistics Division-ESCWA joint regional training workshops on the implementation of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2;

(iii) Field projects: development of national gender statistics in Iraq, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group; strengthening the development of international merchandise trade statistics and the compilation of e-commerce; and strengthening the use of statistical information in support of progress towards internationally agreed development goals in the ESCWA region.

Table 21.18 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 5**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	2 598.7	3 229.3	13	15
Non-post	160.9	177.1	—	—
Subtotal	**2 759.6**	**3 406.4**	**13**	**15**
Extrabudgetary	1 198.0	533.8	—	—
Total	**3 957.6**	**3 940.2**	**13**	**15**

21.59 The amount of $3,229,300 under posts, reflecting an increase of $630,600, provides for the funding of 15 posts. The increase relates to the inward redeployment of two posts (1 D-1 and 1 P-2) from subprogramme 3, which would strengthen the secretariat's capacity in assisting the member countries to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics. This is also in compliance with the OIOS recommendation (SP-04-003-002), in which ESCWA has been requested to reconstitute a full fledged Statistical Division to respond to the expressed needs of the member countries (see A/61/61).

21.60 The requirements under non-post resources of $177,100, reflecting an increase of $16,200, would provide for other personnel related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The increase is related mainly to higher requirements under expert group meetings.

21.61 Extrabudgetary resources of $533,800 are intended to strengthen the capacity of statisticians in the region in the priority areas identified by the Statistical Committee, and provide forums and networks for statisticians to exchange information and experience in statistical work and methods which would lead to enhancement of statistical capacity in the region.

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

Resource requirement (before recosting): $2,288,400

21.62 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 6 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.19 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To foster greater participation of women in public life for equality between women and men by contributing to reducing gender imbalances and empowering women.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of national mechanisms and civil society institutions for the empowerment and advancement of women to address gender imbalances and mainstream a gender perspective, with special emphasis on the participation of women in legislative and executive authorities	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries applying policy options for the empowerment and advancement of women *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 5 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 7 countries Target 2008-2009: 10 countries (ii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries to increase the participation of women in policy and decision-making *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 2 measures Estimate 2006-2007: 4 measures Target 2008-2009: 6 measures

External factors

21.63 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries provide timely response to requests for relevant information by ESCWA; (b) the political will exists in ESCWA member countries to promote gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women; (c) member countries take measures to align their existing laws, regulations, and practices with their commitments to the outcomes of international conventions and conferences; and (d) the political situation in the region is stable.

Outputs

21.64 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report on the third session of the Committee on Women;

(ii) Committee on Women:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the fourth session of the Committee for the regional preparatory 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (6);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on key issues concerning advancement of women in the Arab region; report on the 10-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region;

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: peer review of ESCWA/LAS-Arab Women's Organization Joint Study on the Status of Arab Women: means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding; 10-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region; revision of guidelines to increase effectiveness of national machineries for women in the ESCWA region; and women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: ESCWA/LAS-Arab Women's Organization Joint Study on the Status of Arab Women: means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding; and Women and Development Series: women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: guidelines on the protection of the rights of women in the ESCWA region through the proper use of United Nations resolutions and international protocols on war and armed conflict; and revised guidelines to increase effectiveness of national machineries for women in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: Arab women's e-magazine (12); Centre for Women Gender Newsletter (24); information kit for the regional preparatory 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the fourth session of the Committee on Women; information kits on advancement of women in the ESCWA region: perspective and potentials, to be distributed at the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (2); poster for the

regional preparatory 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the fourth session of the Committee on Women;

(iv) Special events: launching of ESCWA/LAS-Arab Women's Organization Joint Study on the Status of Arab Women: means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Arab region;

(v) Technical material: development and refinement of Arabic terminology in the field of advancement of women; e-network for knowledge-sharing among national machineries for women in the ESCWA region, including the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from the establishment of e-network for national machineries in Africa (2); economic and social situation on Palestinian women; and maintenance and updating of the ESCWA home page on advancement of women;

(vi) Audio-visual resources: DVD/video production on advancement of women in the Arab region for the fourth session of the Committee on Women for regional preparatory 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and DVD/video show on the economic and social situation on Palestinian women at the session of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: gender mainstreaming and gender analysis; and preparation of country reports on advancement of women;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: training workshop on how to address the media for female parliamentary candidates; and training workshops to enhance the capacity of national machineries for advancement of women in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Field projects: enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women in the ESCWA region; and training of trainers programme for national machineries for the advancement and empowerment of women in the ESCWA region.

Table 21.20 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 6**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	1 689.6	2 135.4	9	10
Non-post	118.1	153.0	—	—
Subtotal	**1 807.7**	**2 288.4**	**9**	**10**
Extrabudgetary	220.8	518.7	—	—
Total	**2 028.5**	**2 807.1**	**9**	**10**

21.65 The amount of $2,135,400 under posts, reflecting an increase of $445,800, would provide for funding of 10 posts. The increased requirements relate to the inward redeployment of one P-4 post from subprogramme 1 ($320,800) and the delayed impact of a P-3 post established in the biennium 2006-2007 ($125,000). The proposed inward redeployment aims to strengthen the secretariat capacity to respond to the new mandate contained in paragraph 2 of ESCWA resolution 278 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, in which the secretariat is requested to examine the situation of

women in the ESCWA member countries that suffer from occupation, war and conflict, and build their capacities in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

21.66 The requirements under non-post resources of $153,000, reflecting an increase of $34,900, would provide for other personnel related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff. The increase is mainly related to additional requirements under consultants to respond to mandates emanating from the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and expert group meetings owing to the increase in the number of expert group meetings from two in the biennium 2006-2007 to four in the biennium 2008-2009.

21.67 Extrabudgetary resources of $518,700 would be used for technical cooperation activities such as advisory services and workshops, to strengthen the capacity of government officials, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in the priority areas of the region identified by the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace.

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

Resource requirement (before recosting): $1,872,800

21.68 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Conflict Mitigation and Development Section. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 7 of programme 18 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Table 21.21 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To reduce the impact of conflict and instability on socio-economic and political development in Western Asia.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding by member countries of the impact of conflict on socio-economic development in the region	(a) Increased number of public and civic entities that acknowledge benefiting from ESCWA work in identifying the socio-economic and political causes of instability and conflict *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero institutions Estimate 2006-2007: 5 institutions Target 2008-2009: 10 institutions
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to identify, assess, predict and respond to socio-economic and political issues and challenges posed by conflict and instability in the region	(b) (i) Increased number of tools and techniques adopted in assessing the root causes of conflict and instability *Performance measures* 2004-2005: zero techniques

Estimate 2006-2007: 2 techniques

Target 2008-2009: 4 techniques

(ii) Increased number of public and civic entities implementing, in partnerships with ESCWA and other entities, projects/programmes that address the socio-economic and political issues and challenges arising from conflict and instability

Performance measures

2004-2005: zero public/civic entities

Estimate 2006-2007: 2 public/civic entities

Target 2008-2009: 6 public/civic entities

External factors

21.69 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is continuing access to direct beneficiaries; (b) the political will exists in ESCWA member countries to address collectively the root causes of conflicts and instability; and (c) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources.

Outputs

21.70 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Economic and Social Council: parliamentary documentation: reports on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan (2);

(ii) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report on the impact of conflict or political crisis on the socio-economic development in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: approaches for sustainable development under crisis conditions; brainstorming on emerging and conflict-related issues (2); consultative round table on programme formulation and coordination among United Nations, other multilateral entities, and civic institutions, dealing with conflict and post conflict-related development issues in Western Asia; and good governance and management of public services under conflict or political instability;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Non-recurrent publications: ethno-sectarian tensions in Western Asia: root causes and challenges; and impact of conflict on socio-economic development programmes in countries in the ESCWA region;

(ii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: booklet on best practices in implementing socio-economic development programmes in conflict or politically volatile areas; brochure on the socio-economic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2); fact sheets on the socio-economic development needs and priorities in conflict-afflicted countries; information kits on sustainable development under conditions of conflict or political instability (2); and pamphlets on selected ESCWA substantive activities related to areas in conflict or political instability (1);

(iii) Special events: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (2);

(iv) Technical material: contingency planning and coordination for the provision of public services under crisis conditions in the ESCWA region; discussion papers on emerging socio-economic issues under conditions of conflict or political instability (2); maintenance and updating of the ESCWA home page on conflict mitigation and development; and maintenance and updating of ESCWA Public Administration Network (PAN) website on activities on public administration and governance in the Arab region, ESCWA being the regional node of United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN) for the Arab Countries;

(v) Audio-visual resources: documentary on best practices in implementing socio-economic development programmes/projects in conflict-afflicted areas;

(vi) Contribution to joint outputs: regional inputs to the Peacebuilding Support Office; and substantive contribution to United Nations country teams' strategy and priorities in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon;

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: emerging socio-economic development issues associated with conflict or political instability;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: workshops on modern management methods for the provision of public services in conflict areas in the ESCWA region; and workshops on promoting inter-communal dialogue among civil society and public institutions under conflict or political instability in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Field projects: capacity-building of public sector management in Iraq, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and confronting the threats of ethno-sectarian tensions in the Arab region, in particular their ramifications on youth and women.

Table 21.22 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 7**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	—	1 776.7	—	8
Non-post	—	96.1	—	—
Subtotal	**—**	**1 872.8**	**—**	**8**
Extrabudgetary	—	3 764.9	—	—
Total	**—**	**5 637.7**	**—**	**8**

21.71 The amount of $1,776,700 would provide for the funding of eight posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 3 Local level), which is the result of the inward redeployment from subprogramme 3 to implement the mandates of the newly established subprogramme.

21.72 Non-post resources of $96,100 would provide for other personnel related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff.

21.73 Extrabudgetary resources of $3,764,900 would be used for technical cooperation activities such as advisory services and workshops, to enable member countries to mitigate the negative impact of conflict or political instability on their socio-economic development, and to enable them to provide basic public services to their societies under those conditions.

D. Programme support

Resource requirements (before recosting): $24,488,000

21.74 Programme support comprises the Administrative Services Division and the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division.

Outputs

21.75 The outputs of the Administrative Services Division include the following:

(a) Overall administration and management: advising the Executive Secretary on all administrative, management, and organizational matters; provision of policy guidelines and coordination of the central common services; representation of the United Nations in negotiations with the host country on various issues relating to implementation of the headquarters agreement; monitoring of the management reform process and implementation by the secretariat units;

(b) Human resources management: recruitment and placement; provision of staff administration and staff welfare services; training; career development and upgrading of substantive skills; staff-management relations, administration of justice; resolution of disputes and conflicts; provision of medical services and legal advice; and succession planning, in cooperation with programme managers, focusing on gender issues;

(c) Budgetary and financial services: provision of guidance, coordination and support services to programme managers in the preparation of programme budget proposals and performance reports; overall control of utilization of programme budget and extrabudgetary resources; provision of accounting services and financial disbursements, including payroll, vendors, per diem and other entitlements; coordination of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS); formulation of administrative responses and monitoring of follow-up to the reports of various oversight bodies, such as the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Office of Internal Oversight Services; review and analysis of proposals relating to extrabudgetary financing; preparation of memorandums of understanding; and negotiation, monitoring and implementation of cost-sharing arrangements with the various United Nations agencies;

(d) Information technology, communications and systems: provision of information technology services and infrastructure and standardization of software and hardware; provision of in-house programming services to all substantive divisions in order to ensure compatibility with the existing technology, as well as to establish a centralized control management system

of the Local Area Network; provision of videoconferencing; enhancement of the ESCWA Internet and Intranet sites;

(e) Central support services: administration of the implementation of the headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the host Government; facilities management and maintenance; provision of commercial and procurement services; transportation, logistic and travel services; liaison with Government officials of the host country; provision of postal services; maintenance of central registry and archives system; store and inventory management;

(f) Conference services: provision of conference services to the policymaking organs of ESCWA and other intergovernmental meetings held under its auspices, including the preparation and coordination of official meetings; provision of interpretation, verbatim reporting, translation, editorial services; documentation and publication services; secretarial and technical support;

(g) Library services: provision of library services and information to staff, member States, United Nations libraries and depository libraries and other clients, including the acquisition of publications, databases; indexing of ESCWA documents on the Official Documents System to make them available to Internet users; and developing library Internet and Intranet web pages.

21.76 The outputs of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division include the following:

(a) Planning, monitoring and evaluation: provision of guidance and support to the substantive divisions in the formulation of the biennial programme plan, programme budget, including regular budget and extrabudgetary technical cooperation proposals, taking into account the global requirements and the emerging regional development issues, and in the implementation and evaluation of their programme of work, including programme performance reporting;

(b) Programme coordination: provision of policy guidelines to the substantive offices with a view to: (i) ensuring the mainstreaming of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, into the ESCWA programme; (ii) promoting multidisciplinary approach and collaborative activities; and (iii) improving the coherence between analytical, normative and operational activities; and coordination and liaison with the other Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs entities, other United Nations and non-United Nations intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for joint programming, with the aim of landscaping regional perspectives in pursuing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and providing regional support to national capacity development in this regard;

(c) Management of technical cooperation activities: provision of policy guidance and support to the substantive offices in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of their respective technical cooperation programmes and projects, including those projects funded from the Development Account; management of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and Development Account, and coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in this respect; facilitation of networking and knowledge management on ESCWA technical cooperation; provision of proactive support to partnership development and resource mobilization within the context of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy; and promotion of information and communication support and promotional initiatives on technical cooperation programmes and technical cooperation development.

Table 21.23 **Summary of resource requirements**

Category	Resources (thousands of United States dollars) 2006-2007	2008-2009 (before recosting)	Posts 2006-2007	2008-2009
Regular budget				
Post	18 404.0	17 831.7	119	116
Non-post	6 645.9	6 656.3	—	—
Subtotal	**25 049.9**	**24 488.0**	**119**	**116**
Extrabudgetary	884.0	455.6	—	—
Total	**25 933.9**	**24 943.6**	**119**	**116**

21.77 The amount of $17,831,700 under posts, reflecting a decrease of $572,300, provides for the continued funding of 116 posts. The net decrease of $572,300 results from the outward redeployment of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 Local level) to subprogramme 2 and one Local level post to subprogramme 5. The proposed redeployments is the result of the continuous rationalization of the work processes in the Administrative Services Division with the aim of shifting resources to the substantive areas in order to strengthen them.

21.78 Requirements under non-post resources of $6,656,300, reflecting an increase of $10,400, include inter alia, (a) other personnel related costs; (b) consultants to provide for specialized legal expertise, and for strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems; (c) travel of staff; (d) general operating expenses; and (e) contribution to the ESCWA Joint Medical Services Unit.

21.79 Extrabudgetary resources of $455,600 would provide for services in support of technical cooperation activities.

Table 21.24 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement the relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies**

Brief description of the recommendation	Action taken to implement the recommendation
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7 and Corr.1)	
The Advisory Committee requests that ESCWA report on progress made in the area of fund-raising and extrabudgetary resources in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (para. V.78).	ESCWA established a donor database for fund-raising and also developed a system to monitor donor contacts, both of which are now posted on the Intranet. The substantive staffs are requested to share information with others on their latest contacts with potential donors. In 2006, the secretariat circulated a pamphlet on the ESCWA Trust Fund at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission with a view to encourage members to contribute to it. This approach will continue for 2007. In 2007, ESCWA will further operationalize the partnership development strategy and resource

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	mobilization plan. Each new project proposal will be required to include funding a strategy and dedicated follow up with potential donor(s). The first meeting of the technical cooperation focal points of the ESCWA member countries is scheduled to take place in May 2007.
Arrangements for the cost-sharing of medical services should be worked out in a transparent manner, a priori (para. V.79).	A cost-sharing mechanism has been established at ESCWA including the medical services. Memorandums of understanding have been issued and signed by ESCWA and its counterparts. It is expected that the Medical Services Unit would be fully operational by mid-2007.
Board of Auditors (A/61/5, vol. II, chap. II)	
The Board recommended that ESCWA obtain the necessary financial information from vendors, in conformity with section 7.5 of the United Nations Procurement Manual (para. 536).	The Procurement Unit will continue to obtain the necessary financial information from vendors. Each buyer is responsible to have such documents available in the vendor file (in accordance with the Procurement Manual) prior to awarding contracts.
The Board recommended that ESCWA evaluate the reasons for the delays in the procurement process which result in a lengthy lead time and take corrective action to prevent its recurrence (para. 561).	ESCWA shall ensure that requisitioners consolidate their requirements and improve submission of clear specification. This would ensure reduction in lead time between the date of receipt of the requisition by the Procurement Unit and the date that the goods/services are inspected.
The Board reiterated its recommendation that the Administration fill vacant posts in a timely manner (para. 643).	The Human Resources Management Section continues and closely monitors and follows up on all prevailing recruitment cases.
The Board recommended that ESCWA appoint staff at levels in line with the job requirements and in accordance with the approved staffing table, and expedite the ongoing post classification review to ensure that post levels are aligned with the respective job requirements and staffing needs (para. 649).	Several of the cases have already been resolved in the context of the implementation of the classification review which is nearing completion.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/61/61)	
ESCWA should determine which current "divisional teams" must be re-established as stable organizational units and which ones should continue as teams. Multidisciplinary, interdivisional teams should complement the stable organizational structure by being set up for achieving concrete non-recurrent goals by specific deadlines. Subprogramme managers should be empowered to manage both stable structural units and multidisciplinary teams within their purview (SP-04-003-001) (para. 50).	Within the context of the programme budget exercises for 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, the subprogramme theme and team structures of ESCWA were carefully examined and realigned to strengthen one-to-one congruence. In light of the ongoing United Nations reform and its impact on the organizational structure and resource allocations, ESCWA is committed to continue the implementation of this recommendation. Subprogramme managers are empowered to manage their teams and to promote interdivisional activities through regular senior management consultations.
The internal review should be completed without delay. A revitalized Statistics Division, responsible for all outputs and resources of statistics subprogramme, should be re-established without further delay. It should be linked through effective consultative mechanisms and collaborative arrangements with other ESCWA divisions, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional and national counterparts (SP-04-003-002) (para. 52).	The internal review was completed. In the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009, the reconstitution of a full fledged Statistics Division and the necessary redeployments are proposed to manage subprogramme 5. ESCWA will continue to monitor the outcome of the implementation of this recommendation, bearing in mind that the Statistics Division is required to meet the needs of both external clients (national statistical offices and other producers of statistics) and internal clients (substantive Divisions in the secretariat).
ESCWA should revise the terms of reference of its Publications Committee reflecting the relevant best practices and ensuring the clear delineation of responsibilities between the Committee, the substantive Divisions and the top management of ESCWA (SP-04-003-003) (para. 54).	The terms of reference were revised through close consultation within all organizational units in the ESCWA secretariat as well as with other regional commissions. To the extent possible, the responsibilities between the Committee, the substantive Divisions and the top management of ESCWA have been delineated. The Publications Committee will provide a forum that promotes close interaction among all organizational units and proposes collective advice to the Management on required action.
ESCWA should prepare a plan of action for fully implementing all envisaged elements of Total Quality System (SP-04-003-004) (para. 56).	According to the plan of action, ESCWA has institutionalized a number of quality assurance mechanisms (the development of a standardized annual divisional workplan; the implementation of the quarterly programme budget performance assessment; and the

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	implementation of the monthly monitoring of publications programme; the development of in-house training on key subjects aimed at quality improvement).
The Project Review Committee of ESCWA should deal with all technical cooperation projects irrespective of their source of funding. The Committee should prepare the compendium of best practices in fund-raising, project approval, appraisal and evaluation, and optimizing the geographical focus of technical cooperation as applied in ESCWA, as well as relevant guidelines and templates to be used in the Committee's work. The proceedings of the Committee, along with comprehensive information on advisory services planned and delivered, should be available on the Intranet and an electronic bulletin board should be set up to make information on the planning and implementation of all technical cooperation activities widely accessible and supportive to multidisciplinary programming and cooperation (SP-04-003-005) (para. 57).	The existing ESCWA Trust Funds Committee became ESCWA Project Review Committee to assume the full functions required. ESCWA established a project planning and management cycle and implemented an outreach programme and a series of training of technical cooperation focal points in organizational units within ESCWA. All relevant forms and guidelines are made available and regularly updated on the Intranet, so that the staff-at-large have direct access to them. Furthermore, the quarterly project monitoring report is issued to keep the Management and the substantive offices informed of the latest implementation status of all technical cooperation projects.
ESCWA should enhance the impact of training on programme performance through:	All funds related to training allocated have been applied.
(a) Determining, in participatory manner, the priorities and topics of training on the basis of programme priorities and related needs in the adjustment of staff skills and making training plans available to all staff;	Status as at December 2006:
(b) Promoting group training and raising its share to at least 30 per cent of all training funds;	Substantive skills upgrading: 98 staff received training; 56 per cent of funds used for individual training; and 44 per cent for group training.
(c) Establishing clear guidelines on obtaining external training and widely disseminating them. (SP-04-003-006) (para. 58).	Information technology training: 23 staff were trained 51 per cent of funds spent on individual training and 49 per cent on group training
	The training plan was reviewed in October on return of ESCWA staff from evacuation. All programme managers were requested to review their training requests and indicate priorities.
(a) ESCWA should initiate the in-depth review, jointly with all members of the Regional Coordination Group, of the role, methods of work and support resources of the Group aimed	(a) The Third Meeting of Chiefs of Programme Planning of Regional Commissions (Beirut, September 2005) reviewed the role of regional coordination meetings, including

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
at transforming it into a robust tool for regional coordination, creating a reliable mechanism for implementing its recommendations and ensuring effective staff support to its revitalized role (para. 59).	national-regional linkages. At the eleventh meeting (Beirut, June 2006), the Group initiated the process of an in-depth review of the role, methods of work and support resources of the Group. In light of the ongoing United Nations reform and its impact on the role, methods of work and financial aspects of the Group, ESCWA is committed to continue the implementation of this recommendation, taking into consideration the outcome of the General Assembly decision on the United Nations reform, including Economic and Social Council reform.
(b) The Regional Coordination Group page on ESCWA website should be revamped and other relevant electronic tools employed to support continuous collaboration between members of the Group in implementing its recommendations and identifying agenda items for forthcoming meetings (SP-04-003-007) (para. 59).	(b) Lack of manpower resources and other emerging priority work in relation to United Nations reform (including the mandate review inputs, etc.) did not allow to take the necessary action. At the twelfth meeting in 2007, the Group will address this issue, including the issue of joint financing.
ESCWA should develop without delay a longer-term programme of thematic and operational cooperation with the Subregional Office for North Africa of ECA (Economic Commission for Africa), which would realize their synergies and comparative advantages (SP-04-003-008) (para. 60).	Through the review of the ECA Business Plan for 2007-2009 and ESCWA programme of work for 2007-2009, several programme areas were identified for possible areas of cooperation. In February 2007, the Executive Secretaries of ECA and ESCWA held consultation on this issue in New York. As a result, the first joint project proposal on integrated social policies is now under consideration to respond to the request from the Sudan, building on ESCWA's experience gained through the implementation of capacity building projects in Bahrain and Egypt. This will be followed up by a tripartite meeting in Rabat among the programme planning offices of ECA headquarters and ESCWA as well as the North African subregion in late May 2007.
ESCWA should proactively engage the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States in developing a comprehensive and specific framework of longer-term cooperation in accordance with the strengthening of the regional dimensions of operational activities envisaged by the Secretary-General. Such framework should also extend to all regional offices of the United	The dates of the eleventh meeting of the Regional Coordination Group were determined to ensure the participation of the new Director of the Regional Bureau of Arab States of UNDP (June 2006). ESCWA and UNDP identified the following three programme areas for possible cooperation: poverty alleviation; trade and human development; and gender.

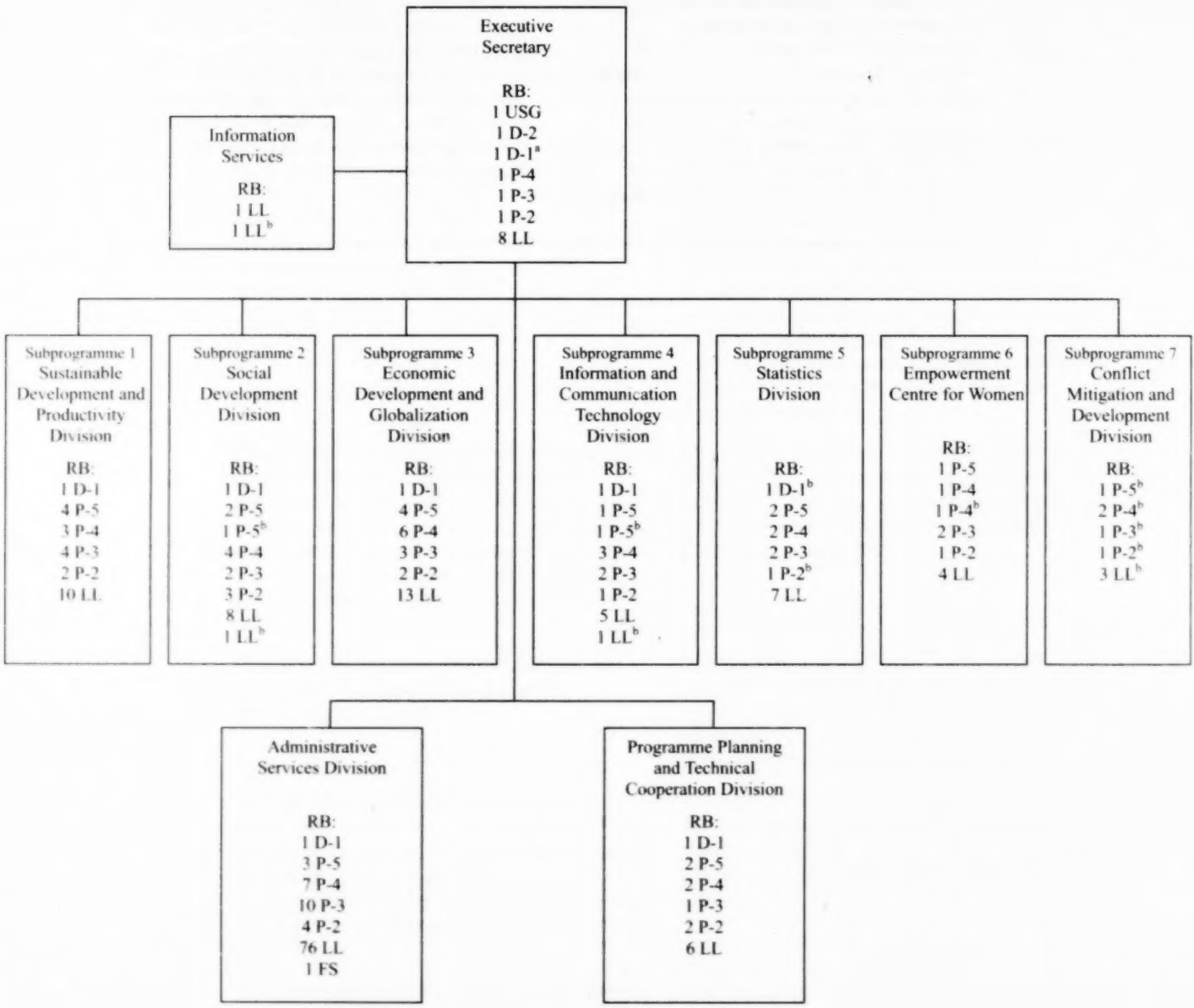
Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Nations system and United Nations country teams. It should use web-based knowledge management regional networks as the major resource for more effective collaboration (SP-04-003-009) (para. 62).	Within the context of United Nations reform, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and the UNDP Administrator agreed to prepare an umbrella memorandum of understanding between the regional commissions and UNDP, which will set a framework for promoting long-term cooperation between the regional commissions and the relevant UNDP regional bureau. The use of web-based knowledge management regional networks will also be addressed within the new framework.
ESCWA should develop its information technology strategy and strategic plan for implementation based on the United Nations information and communication technology strategy standards and guidance. Minutes of the Information and Communication Technology Committee meetings should be made available on the Intranet (SP-04-003-010) (para. 64).	The Information and Communication Technology Committee has developed a preliminary ICT strategy based on the United Nations ICT strategy, with the participation of substantive divisions/units in ESCWA. The war and subsequent relocation and evacuation of ESCWA staff during the summer, has disrupted the continuation of the work. The Committee has resumed working on the strategy and is expected to introduce the strategy to the Cabinet for review and discussion early next year. The Committee minutes are in the process of being made available on the Intranet.
The function of the information master needs to be established with clear terms of reference, coordination arrangements with the webmaster and divisional focal points under the overall guidance of the Information and Communication Technology Committee with the view to ensuring reliable and comprehensive website support (SP-04-003-011) (para. 65).	The terms of reference for the Information Master were established in early 2006 and were provided to the Human Resources Management Section. Several candidates were interviewed on three occasions and have identified a short list based on preliminary interviews. All technological competencies and experiences were reviewed and tested of the short-listed candidates and are awaiting the final substantive tests from the Chief, Information Centre. The Information Master post is to be established (initially for 6 months) with extrabudgetary funds and the candidate is supposed to work closely with the Information Office and the Office of the Executive Secretary.
The Information Technology Unit, the IMIS Coordination Unit, and the Communications Unit should be consolidated into an Information Communications and Systems Section within Administrative Services Division to ensure the minimum resources for proper support to systems	The three units have been consolidated into the Information Communications and Systems Section within the Administrative Services Division. Currently, information technology-dedicated resources are at 2.5 per cent and every effort will be made to raise the level to

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
development, website maintenance and communications. The level of information technology-dedicated resources should be raised to the standard level of 5 per cent. Such strengthening should ensure a back up for the webmaster and a systems development post. Clear roles and responsibilities and reporting lines should be established to foster collaboration and information sharing. A backup system should also be established without delay to avoid instances where systems development and website support are not readily available (SP-04-003-012) (para. 67).	5 per cent. The back up for the webmaster and a systems development post has been implemented with clear roles and responsibilities been established and instituted.
In line with the United Nations information and communication technology strategy, ESCWA should undertake a cost benefit analysis and a return on investment review of all of the databases developed and decide on their suitability, continuation, enhancement and streamlining. ESCWA should not develop any new systems or applications until its information and communications technology strategy is adopted and its Information and Communication Technology Committee established to undertake such reviews. Any future information and communications technology development should be based on the priorities and resources determined by the Information and Communication Technology Committee (SP-04-003-013) (para. 68).	Work has just started on the development of an ICT strategy for ESCWA, and as a first step an inventory of systems and applications in preparation for a cost benefit analysis review has already been undertaken.
(a) ESCWA should develop a knowledge management strategy based on its own recommendations to member States, UNDP experience and parameters and adopt an action plan for implementing it. The strategy should aim at establishing ESCWA as a source of knowledge on regional social and economic issues and the first point of call for diverse practitioners and stakeholders seeking such knowledge. Information technology should also provide for discussion space to facilitate exchanges between member States on the items on the Commission's agenda between its sessions. The knowledge management strategy should buttress the ESCWA communications and outreach strategy and rely on its information technology strategy.	The development of a knowledge management strategy and priority plan of action will be implemented, upon the recruitment of an expert in this area. Proposals are made in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which would allow an existing P-4 post in the Office of the Executive Secretary to be used as the knowledge manager. At the Fourth Meeting of Chiefs of Programme Planning (Addis Ababa, January 2007), the five regional commissions exchanged knowledge management practices. The Meeting agreed that ECA would take the lead towards the development of a harmonized approach to knowledge management. ECA will make a set of recommendations highlighting the need for greater commitment in promoting

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
(b) A dedicated post of knowledge manager should be established with an incumbent being a recognized expert in this area and provided with all necessary authority and resources to implement the action plan (SP-04-003-014) (para. 69).	knowledge management in all regional commissions at the meeting of the Executive Secretaries in Santiago in May 2007.
ESCWA should undertake without delay a comprehensive review of its processes and workflows with the view to automating them in line with the best practices throughout the Secretariat based on a realistic action plan with set deadlines and responsibilities (SP-04-003-015) (para. 71).	ESCWA identified 19 processes and workflows left for automation, five of them fall under the Human Resources Management Section namely contract extensions, separations, advances, dependency review and E-leave. An additional four workflows will be implemented in the Section in 2006-2007. The remaining ten are under review for implementation at the end of 2007. The Budget and Finance Section has introduced an automated electronic invoicing system to keep track and follow-up on all pending receivables.
The Chief of the Human Resources Management Section should take appropriate measures to ensure that all personnel decisions are in line with the established policies and procedures and are properly reflected in staff members' personal files. Records of personnel actions should kept and monitored for compliance (SP-04-003-016) (para. 72).	The Human Resources Management Section will continue to work within relevant policy guidelines, rules, regulations and all records of personnel actions will be kept in the staff member's personal files.
Management should ensure that performance appraisals are completed on schedule (SP-04-003-017) (para. 74).	The performance appraisal system (PAS) compliance rate during the 2004-2005 PAS cycle at ESCWA was 100 per cent. The PAS compliance (as at 18 December 2006) for the 2005-2006 PAS cycle is 99.34 per cent.
The Executive Secretary should establish a senior level coordinating and advisory body to address programmatic and operational decisions along with establishing a mechanism for thorough follow-up on executive decisions taken on the advice of these bodies (SP-04-003-018) (para. 76).	ESCWA will continue its ongoing policy of holding regular cabinet meetings (extended audience), and special meetings for programme managers (to address strategic and policy issues).
The Executive Secretary should ensure that the norms of transparent and effective oversight are adhered to by observing established reporting lines and addressing accountability issues in a consistent and fair manner (SP-04-003-019) (para. 78).	The Executive Secretary continues to work within relevant policy guidelines, rules and regulations.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Executive Secretary should clearly define the substantive and administrative responsibilities delegated to the Deputy Executive Secretary and maintain the integrity of such delegation along with accountability for discharging those responsibilities. Clear procedures and reporting lines to the Executive Secretary and regarding subprogramme managers should be established and observed (SP-04-003-020) (para. 80).	The process of the selection and recruitment of a new Deputy Executive Secretary is under way, based on clear terms of reference and functions as contained in the ESCWA Secretary-General's bulletin and the various administrative circulars, and as approved by the Senior Review Group at United Nations Headquarters.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2008-2009



Abbreviations: RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; LL, Local level; FS, Field Service.

[a] Reclassified post

[b] Redeployed post

Annex

Outputs produced in 2006-2007 not to be carried out in the biennium 2008-2009

A/60/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reason for discontinuation*
Subprogramme 1, Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development			
21.26 (a) (i)	Parliamentary documentation on the five-year review of ESCWA water sector achievements in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (a) (i)	Parliamentary documentation: report on policy options on the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plans at the national level	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (a) (ii)	Parliamentary documentation on the five-year review of ESCWA energy sector achievements in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (a) (iii)	Ad hoc expert group meeting on national institutional reforms for the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management in the ESCWA region	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on assessment of water quality management practices in the ESCWA region	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on energy conservation and efficiency in the upstream energy sectors in selected ESCWA member countries	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on guidelines for legislative and institutional reforms needed for the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management at the national level in the ESCWA region	1	Non-recurrent

A/60/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reason for discontinuation*
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on impact of industrial policies on small and medium-sized enterprises competitiveness	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on land degradation assessment and prevention	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on follow-up on the activities of the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development	1	Non-recurrent
21.26 (c) (ii)	Field project: sustainability impact assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade Area	1	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 1	**11**	
Subprogramme 2, Integrated social policies			
21.30 (a) (i)	Substantive servicing of meeting on the Arab regional conference in preparation for the ten-year review and appraisal of the outcome of Habitat II	1	Non-recurrent
21.30 (a) (i)	Parliamentary documentation: report of the Arab regional conference in preparation for the Habitat 10-year review	3	Non-recurrent
21.30 (a) (ii)	Parliamentary documentation: report on issues related to formulation and implementation of social policies	1	Non-recurrent
21.30 (a) (ii)	Parliamentary documentation: report on issues related to the Arab Decade for People with Disabilities	1	Non-recurrent
21.30 (b) (i)	Demographic Profiles of the Arab Countries	1	The type of issuance will be discontinued with released resources used for producing a booklet on the same topic in a concise, practical way with a user-friendly format to better cater to the needs of the target audience.

A/60/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reasons for discontinuation*
21.30 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on status and prospects of the Arab city	1	Non-recurrent
21.30 (b) (iv)	Technical material on country profiles on urbanization and housing policies in Oman and Qatar	2	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 2	**10**	
Subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration			
21.34 (a) (i)	Parliamentary documentation: report to the Economic and Social Council on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan	2	Non-recurrent
21.34 (b) (i)	*Analysis of Performances and Assessment of Growth and Productivity*	1	Will be discontinued and selected information incorporated in the "Survey". Released resources will be used for substantive coordination of an increased number of United Nations and regional organizations interested in the joint production of the regional Millennium Development Goals report.
21.34 (b) (i)	Review of Progress made by Yemen in the implementation of the New Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries	1	Assisting the Yemeni Government to produce this review should be the responsibility of the United Nations country team. Where necessary and upon request, ESCWA will provide input. Released resources will be used to deliver outputs on financing for development.

A/60/6, paragraph	Output	Quantity	Reason for discontinuation
21.34 (b) (ii)	Technical material on maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA home page on economic analysis and forecasting for regional development on the Web	2	This home page and another home page "Maintenance of the ESCWA home page on regional integration and responding to globalization" will be merged into one home page in alignment with the restructuring of ESCWA programme. Released resources will be used for more frequent update to disseminate timely information.
21.38 (b) (i)	*Methodological Framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq*	1	The issuance of this output as a recurrent publication will be discontinued. Released resources will be used for the issuance of a technical material on the same topic for more targeted dissemination.
21.38 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on good practices in information and communications technology applications in seaports in ESCWA member States	1	Non-recurrent
21.38 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on International Civil Aviation Organization/ESCWA study on air transport in Western Asia	1	Non-recurrent
21.38 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on monitoring report on road traffic safety in ESCWA member States	1	Non-recurrent
21.38 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on movement of natural persons	1	Non-recurrent
21.38 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on regional investment directory report: Western Asia	1	Non-recurrent
21.38 (b) (iv)	Technical material on networking of national focal points for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	1	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 3	**13**	

A/60/6, paragraph	Output	Quantity	Reason for discontinuation
Subprogramme 4, Information and communications technology for regional integration			
21.42 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on guidelines for information and communications technology policy and strategy formulation and implementation	1	Non-recurrent
21.42 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on models for cyber legislation	1	Non-recurrent
21.42 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on needs for building national and regional knowledge-based economies	1	Non-recurrent
21.42 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on promoting information and communications technology venture capital and entrepreneurship in the region	1	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 4	**4**	
Subprogramme 5, Statistics for evidence-based policymaking			
21.46 (a) (i)	Parliamentary documentation on the five-year review of the Millennium Development Goals	1	Non-recurrent
21.46 (c) (ii)	Field project on the development of disability statistics in the ESCWA region	1	Non-recurrent
21.46 (c) (ii)	Field project on the International Comparison Programme	1	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 5	**3**	
Subprogramme 6, Advancement of women			
21.50 (a) (ii)	Ad hoc expert group meeting on enhancing synergy, networking and participatory role in policymaking	1	Non-recurrent
21.50 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on gender mainstreaming fact sheets and national sectoral policies for the empowerment of women and gender equality in the region	2	Non-recurrent

A/60/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reason for discontinuation*
21.50 (b) (ii)	Non-recurrent publication on follow-up to the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and implementation of the Convention	1	Non-recurrent
21.50 (c) (i)	Advisory services on follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the 10-year review, the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals	2	Non-recurrent
21.50 (c) (ii)	Workshop on capacity-building of non-governmental organizations and national machineries to synergize and participate in monitoring the implementation of the 10-year review and the Convention	1	Non-recurrent
	Total subprogramme 6	**7**	
	Grand total	**48**	